

US ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY, REGION II

INITIAL POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

Date: July 26, 1994
From: Joseph Cosentino, OSC *Joseph Cosentino*
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Subject: Bayonne Barrel and Drum. Newark,
Essex County, New Jersey

POLREP No: One (1), Initial Polrep

II. BACKGROUND

Response Authority: CERCLA
NPL Status: Non-NPL
Site Number: 9J
Action Memorandum Status: Verbal Authorization granted
on 7-14-94
Start Date: 7-14-94

III. INCIDENT INFORMATION

On July 14, 1994, OSCs, Joseph Cosentino, Nick Magriples and Bob Montgomery conducted a site visit. A fire had recently occurred at the facility. Discussions with the Newark Fire Department revealed that the fire had occurred in the former office building of Bayonne Barrel and Drum on July 8, 1994. The fire, believed to have been started by vagrants, destroyed several building near the entrance to the site but did not appear to impact any areas known to contain waste.

There were no security guards present at the facility and

the site accessible through openings in the fence. A scavenger was observed sifting through debris and rubble for scrap metal. The main gate, noted to be closed with a lock and chain upon arrival, was subsequently opened by the scavenger. An empty box trailer found in one of the buildings was determined to be stolen and reported to the Newark Police department.

The drums and ash previously contained in a building were accessible and exposed due to the collapse of a makeshift plywood wall. The ash pile is uncovered and the drums appear to be in very poor condition. There are an estimated 200 to 250 drums located within this building (designated as building No. 2).

The area near the incinerator, known to be contaminated with organics, PCBs and heavy metals, was flooded and appears to have been accessed by a heavy vehicle.

One of the above ground storage tanks, known to contain an estimated 1,400 gallons of a liquid substance, appears to be of poor structural integrity. Several areas around and near the tanks, including the opening of an under ground storage tank, appear to be heavily stained.

The tire piles on site have increased substantially over the last couple of years. There are numerous piles of what appears to be a mixture of soil and construction debris on the site.

Between the piles of "empty" drums located at the rear of the facility several drums containing a dark oil-like substance were found. These drums appear to be in fairly good condition. However, due to the removal of their bungs and the infiltration of rainwater and/or pressurization due to elevated ambient temperatures have leaked a substantial portion of their contents onto the ground surface.

IV. REMOVAL INFORMATION

A. Actions Taken

1. On July 14, 1994, a verbal funding authorization was received from Kathleen Callahan, Director of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division, to conduct the emergency response activities necessary to stabilize and remediate the threats to human health and the environment present at the Bayonne Barrel and Drum Site. A total project ceiling of \$200,000 with a mitigation ceiling of \$150,000 was authorized.

2. An Emergency Response Clean-up Services (ERCS)

contractor was immediately activated and site security (24 hour guard) established.

3. On July 15, 1994; the OSC and ERCS met on site to discuss the anticipated tasks and logistics of the response. A site specific Work Plan and Health and Safety Plan were requested.

4. On July 18, 1994, equipment and manpower were mobilized to the site and site preparation began. The primary activities were to establish an office trailer, obtain electric and telephone service, establish a decon area and laboratory trailer and clear the debris from along eastern boundary of the site to facilitate the movement of equipment and manpower.

In addition, a Detective from the Newark Police Department's Major Crimes Bureau assisted the OSC with having the owner/operator repair and remove the stolen box trailer.

5. On July 20, 1994, ERCS began removing drums from building No. 2 to building No. 1 where they were remotely punched, sampled, overpacked, marked and staged. To date, 90 drums have been removed from the building. It appears that many of the drums have leaked as evidenced by numerous stains and the pooling of material on the floor of the building. Several drums were found to be empty. Field hazcatting results indicated the presence of chlorinated organics, non chlorinated organics, flammable liquids, oxidizers and fuming acids.

6. Several local, state and federal law enforcement agencies have contacted the OSC concerning the site and EPA's activities.

B. Next Steps

Activities to stabilize the site will continue. These activities will include maintaining 24 hour security, repairing of the fence and addition of gates, the stabilization of the ash piles, the continued collection of drummed material and removal of material in the tanks.